

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A method of generating an estimate of an amount of time required to complete a content request for content to be transmitted over a network, comprising:

receiving a first estimate of an amount of time to retrieve or prepare requested content in a content source device, wherein the first estimate includes a minimum, maximum, and average amount of time to retrieve or prepare the requested content;

generating a second estimate of an amount of time to receive the requested content over a communication link from the content source device;

generating a third estimate of a total amount of time to complete the content request based on the first and second time estimates, wherein the third estimate includes a minimum, maximum, and average time of completion for the content request;

generating a graphical representation of the third estimate, wherein the graphical representation includes an indicator for each of the minimum, maximum, and average time of completion for the content request; and

outputting the graphical representation on a display device.

2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first estimate is generated using a table lookup of previously handled content requests.

3. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the table lookup includes finding one or more previously handled content request entries in a table that have parameters similar to parameters included in the content request.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first estimate is generated based on information identifying the processes used to retrieve or prepare the requested content.

6. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the information includes at least one of an identifier of a program to be used to retrieve or prepare the requested content, a typical execution time for the program, a number of lines of code in the program, and a number of lines of code per second handled by a processor of the content source device.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the second estimate is generated based on an amount of content to be transmitted and a transmission rate.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical representation includes associated text, and wherein the associated text is changed from a first text to a second text when the requested content begins to be received from the content source device.

11. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
updating the graphical representation based on the occurrence of an event.

12. (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the event is an increment of a predetermined amount of time of a system clock.

13. (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the event is receipt of a portion of the requested content.

14. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical representation represents the third estimate as a combination of the first estimate and the second estimate, wherein a representation of the first estimate in the graphical representation is different from a representation of the second estimate in the graphical representation.

15. (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the first estimate is represented in a different color than the second estimate.

16. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical representation is a progress bar.

17. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented by a web browser application on a computing device.

18. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented by a plugin application to a web browser application on a computing device.

19. (Currently Amended): A method of generating an estimate of an amount of time required to retrieve or prepare requested content, comprising:

receiving a request for content, the request including one or more parameters;

identifying previously completed request information regarding a previously completed request based on the one or more parameters, the information including a time required to retrieve or prepare the content of the previously completed request;

generating a minimum, maximum, and average time estimate of an amount of time required to retrieve or prepare the requested content based on the previously completed request information;

generating a graphical representation of the minimum, maximum, and average time estimate estimates; and

outputting the graphical representation on a display device.

20. (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein identifying previously completed request information includes using a table lookup in a previously handled content request table.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 19, wherein generating ~~[[a]] the minimum, maximum, and average~~ time estimate of an amount of time required to retrieve or prepare the requested content includes generating the time estimate based on a time to retrieve or prepare content identified in the previously completed request information, a system load at the time of the previously completed request, and a current system load.

23. (Original): The method of claim 20, further comprising:
storing a new entry in the previously handled content request table for the request for content.

24. (Original): The method of claim 19, further comprising:
transmitting the time estimate to a client device.

25. (Currently Amended): A computer program product in a computer readable medium for generating an estimate of an amount of time required to complete a content request for content to be transmitted over a network, comprising:

first instructions for receiving a first estimate of an amount of time to retrieve or prepare requested content in a content source device, wherein the first estimate includes a minimum, maximum, and average amount of time to retrieve or prepare the requested content;

second instructions for generating a second estimate of an amount of time to receive the requested content over a communication link from the content source device;

third instructions for generating a third estimate of a total amount of time to complete the content request based on the first and second time estimates, wherein the third estimate includes a minimum, maximum, and average time of completion for the content request;

fourth instructions for generating a graphical representation of the third estimate, wherein the graphical representation includes an indicator for each of the minimum, maximum, and average time of completion for the content request; and

fifth instructions for outputting the graphical representation on a display device.

26. (Original): The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the second instructions for generating the second estimate includes instructions for generating the second estimate based on an amount of content to be transmitted and a transmission rate.
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Original): The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the graphical representation includes associated text, and wherein the associated text is changed from a first text to a second text when the requested content begins to be received from the content source device.
30. (Original): The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:
sixth instructions for updating the graphical representation based on the occurrence of an event.
31. (Original): The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the event is an increment of a predetermined amount of time of a system clock.
32. (Original): The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the event is receipt of a portion of the requested content.
33. (Original): The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the graphical representation represents the third estimate as a combination of the first estimate and the second estimate, wherein a representation of the first estimate in the graphical representation is different from a representation of the second estimate in the graphical representation.
34. (Original): The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the first estimate is represented in a different color than the second estimate.

35. (Original): The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the graphical representation is a progress bar.

36. (Currently Amended): A computer program product in a computer readable medium for generating an estimate of an amount of time required to retrieve or prepare requested content, comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request for content, the request including one or more parameters;

second instructions for identifying previously completed request information regarding a previously completed request based on the one or more parameters, the information including a time required to retrieve or prepare the content of the previously completed request;

third instructions for generating a minimum, maximum, and average time estimate of an amount of time required to retrieve or prepare the requested content based on the previously completed request information;

fourth instructions for generating a graphical representation of the minimum, maximum, and average time estimate estimates; and

fifth instructions for outputting the graphical representation on a display device.

37. (Original): The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the second instructions for identifying previously completed request information include instructions for using a table lookup in a previously handled content request table.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the third instructions for generating [[a]] the minimum, maximum, and average time estimate of an amount of time required to retrieve or prepare the requested content include instructions for generating the time estimate based on a time to retrieve or prepare content identified in the previously completed request information, a system load at the time of the previously completed request, and a current system load.

40. (Original): The computer program product of claim 37, further comprising:
sixth instructions for storing a new entry in the previously handled content request
table for the request for content.

41. (Original): The computer program product of claim 36, further comprising:
sixth instructions for transmitting the time estimate to a client device.

42. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for generating an estimate of an amount of
time required to complete a content request for content to be transmitted over a network,
comprising:

means for receiving a first estimate of an amount of time to retrieve or prepare
requested content in a content source device, wherein the first estimate includes a
minimum, maximum, and average amount of time to retrieve or prepare the requested
content;

means for generating a second estimate of an amount of time to receive the
requested content over a communication link from the content source device;

means for generating a third estimate of a total amount of time to complete the
content request based on the first and second time estimates, wherein the third estimate
includes a minimum, maximum, and average time of completion for the content request;

means for generating a graphical representation of the third estimate, wherein the
graphical representation includes an indicator for each of the minimum, maximum, and
average time of completion for the content request; and

means for outputting the graphical representation on a display device.

43. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for generating an estimate of an amount of
time required to retrieve or prepare requested content, comprising:

means for receiving a request for content, the request including one or more
parameters;

means for identifying previously completed request information regarding a
previously completed request based on the one or more parameters, the information

including a time required to retrieve or prepare the content of the previously completed request;

means for generating a minimum, maximum, and average time estimate of an amount of time required to retrieve or prepare the requested content based on the previously completed request information;

means for generating a graphical representation of the minimum, maximum, and average time estimate estimates; and

means for outputting the graphical representation on a display device.